Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 16 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Sunday 17 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Saturday 16 Mar 2024 at 02:33

Confidence: High confidence for a bright and dry day on Saturday, lower confidence in arrival of rainfall and cloud detail on Sunday. Winds remaining mostly west or southwesterly for the start of next week.

Headline for Saturday 16 Mar 2024: A dry and bright morning with light winds and good visibility, cloudier in the afternoon with some rain later accompanied by strengthening southeasterly winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 16 Mar 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
<05%	<05%	20%	90%	60%	90%

Forecast for Saturday 16 Mar 2024

Weather: A dry and bright start to the day on Saturday with some frost in places, some spring sunshine during the morning. Cloud will begin to form during the afternoon and gradually lower towards the fell tops as a band of rain moves into the western parts of the Lake District and spreads east during the evening. Western Fells will see some light rain and drizzle from mid-afternoon but eastern fells may remain dry until the evening. A wet evening in store with some heavier spells.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 95% lowering to 80% by late afternoon as rain band approaches.

Low cloud and visibility: Some patchy low cloud early on Saturday around the fell tops. Otherwise the fells will be cloud free for the majority of the day, some lower cloud developing towards evening with some scattered layers above 600m in the west around western fells. Visibility will be very good for much of the day with good views. Perhaps poor first thing in any lingering mist or fog patches. Visibility falling moderate in the evening as rain approaches western fells.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 16 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	9/11 S	15/19 SE	23/29 S	27/34 SE	31/40 SE	34/42 SE	33/41 S
600	8/10 S	16/21 S	21/29 S	23/33 SE	31/43 SE	28/39 SE	27/38 S
300	5/9 S	10/17 S	12/24 S	12/27 S	12/31 SE	9/28 SE	9/27 S
Valley	1/8 SE	6/13 SE	7/16 S	8/20 SE	12/28 SE	10/27 SE	10/26 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-3	1/-5	1/-6	2/-5	3/-4	4/-3	5/-2
600	2/-1	2/-3	4/-2	4/-1	4/-3	5/-1	6/0
300	3/0	5/1	7/3	7/3	6/2	6/4	7/4
Valley	4/3	6/4	9/7	9/7	8/5	8/6	9/7
Freezing Level*	800m	800m	900m	1100m	1900m	1900m	1900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

The freezing level rising above all summits during the day so evening precipitation will all fall as rain. Winds freshening during the afternoon. Slight windchill throughout the day.

Forecast for Sunday 17 Mar 2024

Weather: Heavier rain will clear overnight with some areas seeing drier but cloudy conditions on Sunday. Around western fells patchy drizzle and light rain will fall at times, the best conditions can be expected around eastern fells. During the afternoon a few brighter spells will develop for most areas.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 15mph with gusts 25mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% improving to 60%

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered layers of cloud above 400m. Cloud broken or overcast around the southwest of the area. In the east cloud likely to be patchy with some breaks developing in the afternoon. Visibility will be moderate in the west and poor at times in drizzle and light rain, better in the east and becoming good in the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 8 Celsius rising to 12 Celsius later.
At 800m: Plus 4 Celsius.
Freezing level: Above all summits.

Wednesday	A bright start but wet and windy weather likely later.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 15 March 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Full report: As has been the case over the past few days, it was above freezing and precipitating on the summit around midday with the slight contrast that it was just drizzling, rather than Wednesday and Thursday's heavy rain, and only marginally above freezing. Despite this, the thaw continues albeit now at a snail's pace simply because there remains little snow left to melt! As far as we are aware, all Lakeland paths are now free from unavoidable snow and ice including exposed routes such as the Helvellyn Edges. Indeed Striding Edge now has no snow at all along its entire length. Similarly, the vast majority of the fells are now free from snow with the little that remains being almost entirely situated above 900m at the top of steep north and east facing aspects. As such, it represents no hazard to walkers. The main hazards encountered today were the same as the previous days namely poor visibility in the low cloud and drizzle, the strength of the wind (although this was less than yesterday) and the damp, slippery nature of the ground underfoot especially when traversing wet rocks. Despite the above average temperatures this week, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) remains below freezing (minus 7 degrees C around midday). Thus full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. As mentioned, visibility was again poor today, so a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently when landmarks can't be seen is also essential. At the time of writing, temperatures are forecast to fall below zero at altitude tonight so, with the ground being saturated, walkers heading for the highest fells on Saturday should be prepared to encounter ice on paths and rocks. As such, microspikes may be a sensible addition to your rucksack. Temperature: plus 1.4 C, Maximum wind speed 26.6 mph, Wind chill: minus 6.5 C, Average wind speed: 20.6 mph

Issued at: 02:33 on Sat 16 Mar 2024

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